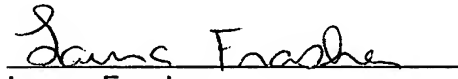


PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT  
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):	)	"EXPRESS MAIL" mailing
	)	label No. EV027097688US.
Bernd Lohmüller et al	)	Date of Deposit: February
	)	<u>19</u> , 2002. I hereby certify
Serial No.:	)	that this paper (or fee) is
	)	being deposited with the
Filed:	)	United States Postal Service
	)	"EXPRESS MAIL POST
For: ANNEALING APPARATUS	)	OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE"
	)	service under 37 CFR § 1.10
Attorney Docket No.: 30151/38183	)	on the date indicated above
	)	and is addressed to:
Group Art Unit:	)	Commissioner for Patents,
	)	Washington, D.C. 20231
Examiner:	)	
	)	
	)	
	)	Laura Frasher

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The patents and/or publications listed on the enclosed PTO Form-1449 are submitted pursuant to 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98. Copies of the patents or publications are enclosed as necessary.

Submitted with this application is a copy of the International Search Report in the counterpart foreign application.

### TIME OF FILING

This information disclosure statement is being filed:

- ☒ 1. with the application or within three months of the filing date of the application or date of entry into the national stage of an international application or, to the best of the undersigned's knowledge, before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, whichever event occurs last. In accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), no certification or fee is required.
2. after the time period specified in paragraph 1 above, but, to the best of the undersigned's knowledge, before the mailing date of a final action under 37 CFR §1.113 or notice of allowance under 37 CFR §1.311. Therefore, in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(c), submitted herewith is:
- (check either A or B below)**
- A. a certification as specified in 37 CFR §1.97(e).
- B. the fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p) for submission of an information disclosure statement under 37 CFR §1.97(c).
3. after the mailing date of either a final action under 37 CFR §1.113 or a notice of allowance under 37 CFR §1.311, whichever occurs first, but before payment of the issue fee. Therefore, Applicant submits herewith:
- A. a certification as specified in 37 CFR §1.97(e);
- B. the petition fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(i); and
- C. the accompanying petition under 37 CFR §1.97(d).

### CERTIFICATION

*(only used if No. 2 or No. 3 above is checked)*

The person(s) signing below certify

**(check appropriate paragraph)**

that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).

**OR**

that no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2).

**PETITION**

*(only used if No. 3 above is checked)*

Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d) that this Information Disclosure Statement, Form PTO-1449, and document(s) identified therein be considered.

**PRIOR AND RELATED APPLICATIONS**

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.98(d), copies of the patents and publications listed on the enclosed PTO Form-1449 are not provided because the patents and publications were previously cited by, or submitted to, the Patent Office in a prior application that Applicant(s) rely upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 were cited by, or submitted to, the examiner of the following patent application(s):

Applicant(s):  
Serial No.  
Filing Date:  
Title:  
Status:

Other applications related to application Serial No. are:

Applicant(s):  
Serial No.  
Filing Date:  
Title:  
Status:

**METHOD OF PAYMENT**

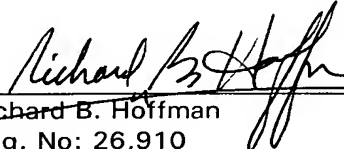
☒ No fee is required.  
Attached is a check in the amount of \$\_.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 13-2855. A copy of this paper is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN  
6300 Sears Tower  
233 South Wacker Drive  
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6357  
(312) 474-6300

By:

  
Richard B. Hoffman  
Reg. No: 26,910

February 19, 2002